

NIST Special Publication 831

***Directory of Professional/Trade
Organization Laboratory
Accreditation/Designation Programs***

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FOREWORD

This directory is a guide to laboratory accreditation and similar types of programs conducted by private sector professionals and trade organizations. These programs accredit or designate laboratories or other entities to conduct testing to assist certification bodies in carrying out their responsibilities. This accreditation, or designation, is based on formal assessment of the capability of the laboratory to conduct the testing. The nature of such assessments varies considerably from agency to agency.

Laboratory accreditation and related efforts provide some assurance regarding the technical proficiency and competence of an entity to assess a product's or service's conformance to a set of prescribed standards. Many sectors of the economy may be interested in laboratory accreditation and related programs for a variety of economic, procurement, safety, or other considerations. Mutual acceptance of laboratory test results among private sector professional and trade organizations, states, local jurisdictions, and at the national and international levels can remove barriers to trade.

This directory (prepared under a contract with the Office of Standards Services, NIST) is an update of information contained in NIST Special Publication 831 of edition 1992, ***Principal Aspects of U.S. Laboratory Accreditation Systems***. This directory identifies professional and trade organization laboratory accreditation/designation programs and notes the appropriate contact points within each organization. It is a reference for all who operate, use, or rely on laboratory services. Entries in this directory are based on information provided by each organization and reflect the organization's view of its activities. Parties interested in this subject may wish to review NIST SP 808, ***Directory of Federal Government Laboratory Accreditation/Designation Programs*** (a summary of programs conducted by the federal government).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This directory is based on my earlier publications in the field; its format was expanded to be consistent with "NIST Special Publication 808, ***Directory of Federal Government Laboratory Accreditation/Designation Programs***," edited by Maureen Breitenberg. Maureen Breitenberg of NIST's Office of Standard Services has provided important help and cooperation while monitoring this effort for NIST.

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Editor

ABSTRACT

This directory is a guide to laboratory accreditation and similar types of programs conducted by professional and trade organizations. These programs accredit or designate laboratories or other entities to assist private sector professional societies, trade associations, related certification bodies, their membership, as well as government agencies, in carrying out their responsibilities. This accreditation or designation is based on an assessment of the capability of the laboratory to conduct the testing. However, the nature of the assessment varies considerably by organization and program.

Entries in this directory are based on information provided by each organization and reflect the organization's view of its activities. Parties interested in laboratory accreditation are referred to NIST SP 808, *Directory of Federal Government Laboratory Accreditation/Designation Programs*, and NIST SP 815, *Directory of State and Local Government Laboratory Accreditation/Designation Programs*, which contain information on similar programs conducted at the federal, state and local government levels.

Publication of this directory is part of ongoing NIST efforts to establish and maintain comprehensive information on standards, regulations, laboratory accreditation, certification programs, and related information. This material answers the needs of government, industry, and the public for information on private sector laboratory accreditation and related programs.

Key Words: accreditation; conformity assessment; certification; designation; laboratory accreditation; laboratory designation; listing; proficiency testing; qualified laboratories; quality systems; standards; testing

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	iv
ABSTRACT	v
INTRODUCTION	1
PROGRAMS BY PROFESSIONAL/TRADE ORGANIZATION LABORATORIES	9
APPENDIX I ----Indices	85
Professional/Trade Organization Accreditation/Designation Systems	86
Index by Field of Testing	88
Index by Products Tested	90
APPENDIX II -- Survey Information	93
Survey Questionnaire	94
Format Used for Each Entry	97
APPENDIX III -- Reconciliation	100
APPENDIX IV -- Other Organizations	107
APPENDIX V -- Acronyms, Abbreviations & Initializations	114
APPENDIX VI -- Related Publications of Interest	117